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Perrier's elaborate memoir on the star-fishes of the "Blake," dredged in the Antillean seas and Gulf of Mexico, under the direction of Mr. Agassiz. It appears in "Nouvelles Archives du Museum d' Histoire Naturelle, June 16, 1884.

For more than twenty-five years Professor J. V. Carus has been collecting materials for a general prodromus or preliminary view of the fauna of the Mediterranean sea. The first part has appeared, containing the Cœlenterates, Echinoderms and worms.

— Further experiments with the new anæsthetic, cocaine, have been made by M. Vulpian, and laid before the French Academy. Researches on snails and crawfishes show that it is less efficacious in the case of invertebrate then vertebrate animals.

— Of the Australian ants, *Formica rufinigra* is said to be the most numerous, bold, and destructive. It destroys the web of certain caterpillars, and wriggles them out, when they fall a prey to a host of attendant warrior ants.

— The death is reported of Mr. Alexander Murray, formerly director of the Geological Survey of Newfoundland, and author of a treatise on the geology of that island. His latest paper was a most interesting one on the glacial scratches of Newfoundland.

—Edward Rüppell died at Frankford, Dec. 10, at the age of 90 years. He was an explorer, geographer, and naturalist, his researches and travels having been made in Northeastern Africa and Arabia Petræa.

— We regret to be obliged to announce the sudden death, in January, by pneumonia, of Mr. Augustus Meisel, the well-known lithographer of Boston, who has produced most excellent zoölogical illustrations.

—M. Searles V. Wood, well known for his essays on English tertiary and quarternary deposits, died December last.

— The death is announced of Mr. Alfred Tylor, a well-known writer on geological and anthropological subjects.

— D. A. Keferstein, well known as a lepidopterist, died at Erfurt, Nov. 28.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS OF NORTH AMERICA.—This body met at Washington, in the lecture room of the National Museum, on Jan. 29th. The following papers were read:

29th, A. M.

1. Charles S. Minot. A new cabinet for microscopical specimens.
2. ——A new feeding trough.
3. ——An apparatus for calculating intervals of days rapidly.
4. S. H. Gage. The use of Müller's fluid for preserving the dark colors of animals.
5. ——The use of collodion for protecting the rubber rings of museum jars.
6. ——Glass bulb canulæ for the injection of silver nitrate, gold chloride, etc.

7. H. F. Osborn. A simple method of injecting the entire arterial and nervous systems in different colors.
8. H. P. Bowditch. A new form of stop-cock for rubber-tubing.
9. R. Ramsay Wright. On methods of staining series of sections.
10. B. G. Wilder. The use of slips in scientific correspondence.
11. C. S. Minot. On a new staining solution for histological use.
12. C. A. Ashburner. Notes on barometric hypsometry.

29th, P. M.

1. H. C. Lewis. A summer school of geology.
2. C. A. Ashburner. Methods in practical geology.
3. H. N. Martin. The use of modeling clay to illustrate lectures.
4. H. F. Osborn. Methods of investigating the embryology of the opossum.
5. Theo. Gill. On osteological collections.

30th, A. M.

1. C. D. Walcott. The collecting and working of invertebrate palæontologic material.
2. G. K. Gilbert. Geological bibliography.
3. Geo. P. Merrill. Exhibition of a colored, enlarged photo-micrograph of a thin section of a rock.
4. G. Brown Goode. Account of the unit system of cases used in the U. S. National Museum.
5. J. A. Ryder. On museum alcoholics.
6. Wilder and Gage. An investigator's table with double or triple revolving top, and movable book-rests.
7. R. R. Wright. On the use of series of sections in laboratory teaching and a convenient method of obtaining them.

30th, P. M.

1. H. A. Howell. On the use of terrapin blood for the demonstration of the phenomena of coagulation.
2. Harrison Allen. Exhibition of the palatograph.
3. C. V. Riley. On the mounting of alcoholic specimens in insect cabinets.
4. ——On a preserving fluid for soft galls and plant tissues.
5. John Murdock. New application of the towing net in the Arctic regions.
6. F. W. True. On the preservation of type specimens.
7. G. B. Goode. The use of photography for making large diagrams.
8. W. H. Niles. Shall we define groups of organisms?
9. L. F. Ward. On a method of rapid drawing for photo-engraving.
10. R. E. Call. Dentition of certain mollusks.

BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON.—The fifth anniversary meeting of the Society was held Jan. 24, 1885. The retiring president, Professor Charles A. White, delivered an address upon the application of biology to geological history.

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, Jan. 12, 1885.—Mr. B. B. Chamberlain read notes on minerals from the French Creek mines, Chester county, Penna. (with exhibition of specimens).

Jan. 26, 1885.—The plan of the Mississippi River Commission and its relation to natural laws, was discussed by Mr. William L. Elseffer, C. E.

BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY, Jan. 7, 1885.—Professor W. O. Crosby read a paper on the color of soils.

Jan. 21.—Mr. Percival Lowell described the costume characteristics of the Coreans; and Professor Edw. S. Morse spoke of Corea as seen through interviews with a native Corean.

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB, Jan. 8, 1885.—Mr. T. W. Bicknell described a summer trip to Alaska, with lantern slides, illustrating the topography of the Northern Pacific Railroad, Alaska, its products, mines, people, houses, dress, customs, social and religious, seals, glaciers and icebergs.

Jan. 14.—Annual meeting. The reports of the secretaries and the treasurer were presented, and the annual election of officers held. W. H. Pickering presented a paper, illustrated with the lantern, entitled an ascent of Vesuvius on the Pompeiian side.

AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, Jan. 13, 1885.—Professor F. H. Cushing, of the Smithsonian Institution, who has dwelt for some years among the Zuñi Indians, delivered a lecture upon his explorations and researches on the discovery of Zuñi or the ancient province of Cibola and the seven lost cities, illustrated by ancient costumes, paraphernalia and stereopticon views.

PHILADELPHIA ACADEMY NATURAL SCIENCES, Nov. 13.—Dr. Randolph stated that he and Mr. S. G. Dixon had experimented on cutaneous absorption by placing one to fifteen drops of nicotine on the breasts of rabbits, taking care to previously remove the hair without abrading the skin. Death resulted in from halt an hour to four hours, and nicotine was found in the blood before death, proving that it was absorbed by the uninjured skin.

Nov. 20.—Dr. Leidy presented specimenns of *Urnatella gracilis*, showing that at the approach of winter the polyps die, the stalk alone remaining securely anchored and ready to reproduce in spring from the summit of the terminal joint. Mr. Potts stated that he had seen examples with seventeen joints, and that the number seemed to be limited only by the time of growth. The latter speaker also describes a rhizopod, apparently a new species of the genus *Acanthocystis*. It was collected on mica schist west of the Schuylkill. The protoplasm filled about one-third of the cavity of the capsule.

Professor Heilprin called attention to a boulder found at Summit, N. J., and containing *Atrypa reticularis*, a form of Strophomena, and several other species, proving that the material came from the Lower Helderberg, the nearest locality of which is sixty miles from where the boulder was found, while the nearest locality in the direction of the glacier's movement was at least a hundred miles.

Nov. 27.—Mr. Ford detailed the finding of *Pholas truncata*, Pierispata, and *Littorina irrorata* upon the beach at Atlantic City, also the discovery of capsules of *Fulgur carica* with living embryos. The Rev. Dr. McCook described a collection of the towers of turret spiders, some made with cotton and other materials supplied to them, others with their own materials. The work of individuals which have just emerged from the egg shows that at that age their instincts are perfectly developed.